

First Light

A weekly e-newsletter from
First United Methodist

October 10, 2025

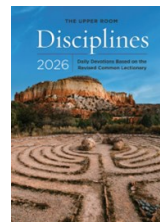
Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Mission

Sunday, October 12th is the kick-off for the 2025 Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Mission project. Empty shoeboxes, provided by Samaritan's Purse and assembled by the Faithful Hands, will be available for distribution in the Welcome Center and outside the Living Water Café. Instructions on how to pack a shoebox along with suggested items will be available. (Note that soap is no longer accepted). When you pick up a box, please sign the sheet and indicate how many boxes you have taken. The cost of shipping each box is \$10.00. If you are able to contribute all or part of this expense, please place your donation in an envelope provided at the table. Envelopes should be placed in the basket at those locations or turned in to the office. **PLEASE DO NOT** put the donations in the shoeboxes and do not wrap the shoeboxes. Shoeboxes should be returned to the Welcome Center or outside the Café by Sunday, November 9th. Children around the world will be blessed with your gift-filled shoebox. If you have any questions, please contact Gail Pentz at 570-546-3998. Thank you for your support.



2026 Disciplines

It is time to order your 2026 *Disciplines* book. *The Upper Room Disciplines* is a book of daily meditations and prayers from 52 diverse Christian leaders that will help deepen your daily life with God. Order forms will be on both Connection Tables. The books are \$10.00 each and orders are due by November 23rd.



Save the Date:
November 9th

The Discipleship Committee will be showing the movie "Wicked" followed by discussion.



The Memorial Garden Committee is looking for an old wall phone for a display in the garden. If you have one to donate, talk with Candy Winters.



October 12, 2025
"No Place Like Home"
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
I Corinthians 9:24-27
Luke 9:57-62

Reminders:

Cantata Rehearsals

Rehearsals for the 2025 Christmas Cantata, "The Poetry of Promise," will begin on Thursday, October 16th. The first rehearsal will be in the sanctuary. Weekly rehearsals will be on Thursday evenings from 7:15-8:15 pm with a few Sunday afternoon rehearsals sprinkled in. The Cantata will be presented on December 21st at 10:45 am and 2:00 pm.

Church Conference

This year's Church Conference will be on November 2nd at 4:00 pm in the sanctuary. We are hosting the East Lycoming Cluster.

Trunk-or-Treat—October 26th

JAM Children's Ministry will hold a Trunk-or-Treat on Sunday October 26th from 2:00-4:00 pm in the Celebration Center. If you plan to host a table, please sign up at the Connection Tables or [online here](#).

Red Cross Blood Drive-Oct. 31st

First UMC will host a special American Red Cross Blood Drive to honor the life of George Frey, a good friend and running partner of Gary Laidacker. Please consider donating blood on October 31st 12:00-5:00 pm in the Celebration Center. To register, call 1-800 RED CROSS or visit redcrossblood.org.

Bus Trip to Sight & Sound

The church is hosting a bus trip to see "Noah" at Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA. The bus trip will be on December 2nd and we will attend the 11:00 am showing. Afterward, we will enjoy a late, buffet-style lunch at Diener's Country Restaurant. The cost per person is \$162.00. and includes the bus transportation, the show ticket, and the meal at Diener's. You can sign up for the trip at the Connection Tables and pay the \$80.00 deposit by either dropping it off at the church office or placing it in a special offering envelope and placing it in the offering plate. The deadline to sign up and to pay any balance due is October 28th. Any questions can be directed to Lisa Laidacker at 570-419-8786.